suffered could be remedied by the contracts in the different departments being given to the people of the country to the exclusion of foreigners. In conclusion, the Member said that the unemployment of the youths of the State was a great economic problem, a partial solution of which might be found in their being employed on the railways in Travancore after giving them the necessary training.

Dewan's reply.—I thank you very much for the valuable suggestions you have made. Many of your suggestions are being adopted. You refer to the importation of foreign officers. I believe you must have been convinced by the recent actions of Government that they have no intention of bringing in officers who are not Travancoreans except under very exceptional circumstances. You refer to the Magistracy being under the thumb of the Police. I think that, if any Magistrate is so, it is his own fault. I do not believe that such a state of affairs exists. You may take the assurance from me that the Government have done nothing to indicate that Magistrates should take their cue from the Police. You referred to Sirkar Vakils and to the additional expenditure incurred by Government by engaging other vakils for conducting Sirkar cases. You have overlooked one point in this matter. Sirkar Vakils are appointed to do a definite item of work, viz., the work in the District Courts, and they are only paid for this specific work. If we want to have other work done, we have either to engage other men or pay the Sirkar Vakils *extra*.

You have referred to the Sastamkotta lake, and the possibility of its being made useful for cultivation. I told you in my address that I was intending to visit the Western Kallada *pakuthi*. I know the Sastamkotta lake. I shall be very pleased to inspect the lake and see to what use it could be turned for purposes of irrigation.

In regard to your suggestion to train some young men of the country for service in the Railway Department, I shall remember it and see what could be done in the matter.

4. Desirability of adopting a new policy of incurring expenditure in proportion to the receipts from the population of each taluk.

Mr. R. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Shertallai Taluk) said that the population and the revenue of each taluk should be accepted as the deciding factors in the determination of the expenditure to be incurred on account of that taluk. He pointed out that a sum of between 7 and 8 lakhs of rupees was being contributed to the State revenues by the people of Shertallai whose main occupation was the cultivation of the cocoanut palm under trying circumstances and observed that it would be disappointing if the money paid by them was not applied to the satisfaction of the barest needs of their taluk. He further pointed out that Shertallai was the third taluk in the State in point of population. The Member then spoke on the various needs of the taluk, especially in the matter of communication, and represented the urgent necessity of completing the Alleppey-Shertallai canal. He suggested that one-half of the sanctioned amount should be spent in its construction from the Shertallai end southward and the other half from the Alleppey end northward. He also requested that the road from Shertallai to Tannirmukkam and other roads might be soon completed with bridges wherever necessary, and suggested that every *pakuthi* in the taluk might be connected by a net-work of roads. Another suggestion of the Member was that a sea-coast railway from Quilon to Cochin along the seaboard taluks might be constructed out of funds raised by means of debenture loans, which had been found from experience to be a popular method of financing such concerns. Touching educational wants, the Member submitted that, owing to the lack of means of communication, only 12,300 out of a school-going population of 25,900 in his taluk attended schools. He requested that more schools might be opened, including an English Middle School for girls in the taluk.. The people had already paid into the treasury their contribution for the acquisition of the necessary lands for the local English High School (except the percentage due under the Land Acquisition Regulation on account of compulsory acquisition) and the Member prayed that the necessary orders might be issued to the Land Revenue and the P. W. Departments in the matter of the early acquisition of the lands and the prompt construction of the required buildings.

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respectively. As cocoanut palm cultivation was the main occupation of the people, the Member suggested that a model cocoanut farm on an area of seven acres might be opened and maintained by the side of the canal now under construction. A culvert of a width of not more than 25 feet at Prayikkara patam(Shertallai-Vadakku *Pakuthi*) was also stated to be necessary for the benefit of the lands there. In view of the extremely unhealthy nature of the taluk, investigations should be started by Government in respect of the diseases peculiar to the taluk and arrangements made for the supply of good drinking water which was the prime necessity of the people. The Member suggested that a competent medical officer having European training might be appointed to the Shertallai District Hospital with instructions to carry on the proposed investigations and publish the results thereof. Lastly, he stated that an allowance to be styled "sand allowance" might be sanctioned to be paid to the officers posted to Shertallai, similar to the local allowances paid to officers in hilly tracts.

Dewan's reply.— I thought that the Member was going to speak about the principle on which the expenditure on a taluk should be incurred in proportion to the receipts from, and the population of, that taluk. But he has spent most of his time in dealing with the details regarding the various needs of the Shertallai taluk. I have noted all the points he has raised. Government are already devoting, and will always devote, special attention to the Shertallai taluk, knowing that the taluk is labouring under certain special disabilities. I have had occasion to visit the taluk and I shall again visit it when I go on tour in that direction and acquaint myself further with the needs of the taluk.

5. Reduction of the Salaries of High Officers.

Mr. Raman Narayanan (Member, Ettumanur Taluk) submitted that the administration of the State was not being conducted on sound lines, although its cost was increasing year after year. Officers in responsible positions were not considering seriously whether their activities contributed to the advancement of the prosperity of the people Whenever the execution of any public work was urged by the people, Government pleaded want of funds; but large amounts were being spent by Government on schemes which were of doubtful use to the State. He complained of the large outlay incurred by the Government from time to time on the construction of roads on behalf of the European planters in the Devicolam Division and cited the Northern Outlet road, the Western Outlet road, and the Devicolam-Kumili road as instances in point. The Member next referred to the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme and spoke at length about the enormous expenditure that would have to be incurred by the State if the scheme was to be financed by Government. He also protested against the proposed participation of the State in the Cochin Harbour scheme. With the promotion of the Deputy Chief Engineer as Acting Chief Engineer, the Member suggested that the former post might be abolished and that the Chief Engineer might be given a Personal Assistant in the place of the Deputy Chief Engineer. The Member next stated that the revised Puduval and Land Conservancy Rules were productive of hardship to the people. The appointment of Assistant Tahsildars and the organisation of *puduval* survey parties did not produce the desired results. He also pointed out that the expected demand from the Forest Department was diminishing gradually, although restrictions were imposed on the removal of mature trees from the forests and the prices of timber and fuel were increased. The Member complained that the recent amendments to the Police Regulation had enormously increased the powers of the Police Officers and that public safety and protection could not be expected from the Department. The salaries of high officers were needlessly exorbitant, especially of those who were brought down from Europe and British India, and he urged that only Travancoreans should be appointed in the State service on smaller salaries than those now allowed. He added that it should be definitely ruled by Government that no officer, except those in the Huzur office and the High Court, should be paid more than Rs. 500 a month. There was no special need for the appointment of a separate Forest Utilisation officer. The Member disapproved of the type of education now imparted in schools, and referred to the events that gave rise to the recent students' strikes. He said

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